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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/673,434	09/30/2003	Eizi Yokoyama	040894-5652-01	2611

9629 7590 02/23/2007
MORGAN LEWIS & BOCKIUS LLP
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WASHINGTON, DC 20004

EXAMINER

PHAN, THIEM D

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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3729

SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD OF RESPONSE	MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE
3 MONTHS	02/23/2007	PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire 6 MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/673,434

Applicant(s)

YOKOYAMA ET AL.

Examiner

Tim Phan

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 15 January 2006.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 4, 5 and 7 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 4, 5 and 7 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☒ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 30 September 2003 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. 09/819,694.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 9/30/03
- ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____
- ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Specifications

1.

- In the amended Specification, filed on 09/30/03, on the last line, after “March 29, 2001” insert: -- , now US Patent No. 6,656,627, which claimed priority to Japanese Patent Application No. 2000-090182, filed on march 29, 2000 --;
- The following title is suggested: “A Method of Manufacturing a Battery Pack”.

Abstract

2. The abstract of the disclosure is objected to because the claimed invention is about the Method Claims. Correction is suggested in order to properly clarify the claimed invention. See MPEP § 608.01(b).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

3. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

4. Claim 5 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicants regard as the invention. The claimed language “and/or” is unclear and needs to be redefined to clarify the claimed invention.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

5. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

6. Claims 4, 5 and 7 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Shoji et al (US 5,982,629).

With regard to claim 4, Shojiet al teach a method of fabricating a circuit board (Col. 3, lines 29+), comprising the steps of:

- a step of forming a terminal portion (Fig. 2, 2) in manufacturing a circuit board (Fig. 2, 1), said step of forming a terminal portion being to stack a base layer of copper (Fig. 2, 2) and a plated layer of copper (Fig. 2, 3) successively to form the terminal portion.

With regard to claim 5, as best understood, Shojiet al teach a further step of:

- forming an insulating layer (Fig. 9, 5) after said step of forming a terminal portion in manufacturing said circuit board, said step of forming an insulating layer being to form an insulating layer in the other area (Fig. 9, 5) than the area where said terminal portion is formed, wherein said insulating layer is formed so as to cover a peripheral edge of said plated layer (Fig. 9, 3) so that the surface of said circuit board (Fig. 9, 1) and/or the surface of the base layer (Fig. 9, 2) are not exposed externally.

With regard to claim 7, Shojiet al teach the further steps of:

- forming a base layer of a copper pattern (Fig. 2, 2) on a surface of an insulating board (Fig. 2, 1);
- forming a plated layer (Fig. 2, 3) so as to cover the entire base layer (Fig. 2, 2) by selective plating (Col. 5, line 5); and
- forming an insulating layer (Fig. 9, 5) on said plated layer (Fig. 9, 3) and patterning said insulating layer so that only a portion of said plated layer is exposed externally.

Conclusion

7. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicants' disclosure.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the

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examiner should be directed to Tim Phan whose telephone number is 571-272-4568. The examiner can normally be reached on M & Tu, 6AM - 2PM, and W & Th, 9AM – 5PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Peter Vo can be reached on 571-272-4690. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Tim Phan".

Tim Phan
Examiner
Art Unit 3729

tp
February 19, 2007